

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: October 20, 2000

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-44)

TO: Joe DeHerrera - KEWN-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Lower Wilson Creek Passage Restoration Project

Project No: 98-034-00

Work Order No: 00002487

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.5 Install Grade Control Structures and Check Dams, 1.15 Fish Passage Enhancement – Fishways, 1.16 Spawning Habitat Enhancements, 1.17 Rearing Habitat Enhancements, 2.15 Acquisition of Sensitive Riparian Resources, 3.1 Plant/Protect Vegetative/Conservation Cover, 4.1 Irrigation Water Management, 4.6 Sprinkler Irrigation, 4.23 Intake and Return Diversion Screens, 4.24 Consolidate/Replace Irrigation Diversion Dams, 6.1 Deferred Grazing, 6.5 Water Supply: Pipeline, and 6.10 Access: Fencing.

Location: Between Ellensburg, WA and Yakima Canyon.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and the Yakama Indian Nation (YIN).

Description of the Proposed Action: The objectives of this project include removal of diversion structures that now form barriers to fish passage, and provide screening of irrigation diversions to prevent fish entrainment. The dams are migration barriers to all life history stages of anadromous fish. Spawning and rearing habitat would increase by roughly seven miles. In addition, areas where streams and irrigation conveyance ditches co-mingle would be separated by constructing undershots for ditch water, thus preventing fish entrainment.

The riparian zone in the project area is dominated by weedy species with a sporadic shrub component. Where possible, this project would provide fencing and riparian restoration to allow for establishment of productive riparian habitat.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by the YIN and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

Mid-Columbia River steelhead trout, bull trout, bald eagle, and Ute ladies'-tresses are the potentially affected listed threatened or endangered species in the vicinity of the project. The proposed actions are also within designated critical habitat for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed fish. A Biological Assessment was submitted by YIN to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

(USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). For USFWS listed species including bull trout, bald eagle, and Ute ladies'-tresses a determination of "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" was concluded and USFWS concurred with this finding on October 4, 2000. For NMFS listed species a determination of "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" was concluded and NMFS concurred with this finding on September 18, 2000. This concludes the requirement for informal consultation on threatened and endangered species under the ESA.

Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the YIN was initiated because this project does involve ground disturbance activities that could potentially disturb cultural resources. A cultural resources survey was completed by Gregory Cleveland, archaeologist for the YIN. A letter of concurrence from Rob Whitlam, State Archaeologist with Washington SHPO, was dated and received August 3, 2000. This concludes the requirements for cultural resources.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. The attached Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and; 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Eric N. Powers

Eric N. Powers

Environmental Specialist

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney DATE: 11/2/00

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

NMFS Concurrence Letter

USFWS Concurrence Letter

SHPO Concurrence Letter

cc: (w/o attachments)

Mr. Hank Fraser - Yakama Indian Nation